LINCY INSTITUTE, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
K-20 EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015
CATHERINE LYONS, PH.D.
Nevada’s ECAC Mission Statement

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (NECAC)

Assembly Bill No. 79: Established in 2009

“Nevada’s children will be safe, healthy, and thriving during the first eight years of life, and the system will support children and families in achieving their full potential.”

The Council works to strengthen state-level coordination and collaboration among the various sectors and settings of early childhood programs. In cooperation with the State Board of Education, the Council is responsible for establishing guidelines to measure the school readiness of children.

Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)

Head Start Act: ECAC

Head Start Collaboration (HSC) and Early Childhood Systems Office ECSO works through statewide partnerships to enhance relationships, build systems, and promote comprehensive quality services to meet the needs of young children and their families. The office exists through grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start and the Health Resources Services Administration, Maternal Child Health Bureau.

(Source: Nevada Department of Health and Human Services: http://dhhs.nv.gov/headstart.htm)
Board Membership

ECAC Advisory Council Members are appointed by the Governor of Nevada. Chapter 432A of the Nevada Revised Statutes requires council membership to include without limitation:

(a) Health Division whose duties include responsibility for child care;
(b) representative of the Department of Education;
(c) Department of Education - one 619 or part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;
(d) representative of the boards of trustees of the school districts in this State;
(e) representative of the Nevada System of Higher Education;
(f) representative of local providers of early childhood education and developmental services;
(g) representative of Head Start agencies in this State, including, without limitation, migrant and seasonal Head Start programs and Indian Head Start programs;
(h) One member who is appointed or designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 9837b(a)(3)(A) (Head Start State Collaboration Director);
(i) representative of the Division of Mental Health and Development Services of the Department;
(j) representative of a nonprofit organization located in southern Nevada that provides early childhood education programs;
(k) representative of a nonprofit organization located in northern Nevada that provides early childhood education programs; and
(l) other members as the Governor determines are appropriate.

Marty Elquist, Nevada ECAC Chair, Tammie Williams, Co-Chair
There are 7 Local Councils

http://nvecac.com/local-councils/

Carson City ECAC
Churchill County ECAC
Northeastern ECAC
Nye County ECAC
Southern Nevada ECAC
Tribal ECAC
Washoe County ECAC
2013, The former Office of Early Care and Education moved to:
Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
Patti Oya, Director

Executive Order signed by Governor Sandoval established a new Division of Early Learning and Development in NDE's Office of Educational Opportunity

- Directs NDE and DHHS to transition the Office of Early Care and Education and the Head Start State Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office into the new NDE Division to better align ECE resources, programs and policy
Child Care and Development Block Grant

Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990 assists working families with the cost of providing child care. The CCDBG is the primary source of federal funding for child care assistance. States use the resources provided by the CCDBG to help low-income families gain access to quality, affordable child care and after-school programs. The CCDBG provides funding to help parents pay for the care of their choice, whether in a family child care home, with a relative or a friend, or in a child care center.

SILVER STATE STRONG (S3)

Nevada’s Early Childhood Comprehensive System Strategic Plan 2014-2017

SILVER STATE STRONG (S3) articulates an ambitious, bold and clear plan for Nevada’s early childhood system that is achievable and will build Nevada’s system of early learning and development, resulting in improved school readiness for all children, especially those with high needs. The S3 agenda is driven by three equally important and interrelated goals:

A. Improve Program Quality and Outcomes for Young Children

B. Increase the Number of Children with High Needs Attending High-Quality Early Learning and Development (ELD) Programs

C. Close the Achievement Gap between Children with High Needs and their Peers by Supporting Efforts to Increase Kindergarten Readiness
SILVER STATE STRONG (S3) is Nevada’s plan for early childhood system building.

This plan prioritizes four major focus areas of an integrated approach to improve quality, data, capacity and supports in order to ensure that Nevada’s young children and their families have access to affordable, high quality programs and supports in order to enter kindergarten ready to learn. These four focus areas are:

1. **Silver State Stars** – Nevada’s Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System;
2. **Silver State KIDS** (Kindergarten Inventory of Development Statewide) – Nevada’s Kindergarten Entry Assessment initiative;
3. **Silver State SKILLS** (Standards, Knowledge and Innovation for Life-Long Success) – Nevada’s system of professional development for early childhood educators; and
4. **Silver State Supports** – Nevada’s cross-system approach to provide culturally competent, community-based supports to families of children with high needs.
Silver State Stars – Nevada’s Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System, 2009, 2013

Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) is a unique tool for system reform that has the potential to reach programs that serve a wide range of children and are financed by many sources. A well designed QRIS provides: quality assurances, supply-side intervention, and demand side intervention designed to influence consumer ECE choices. (Source: QRIS National Learning Network, online at http://qrisnetwork.org/our-framework)

http://www.nvsilverstatestars.org/
Silver State Stars – Nevada’s Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System

Required Criteria

All programs at all star levels:

• Must be in **good standing with child care licensing**, or if licensed exempt with their regulatory body.

• Must be **registered with the child care subsidy program**

• Administrators and a percentage of staff (depending on star level) must have **written professional development plans**.
Silver State Stars – Nevada’s Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System

In addition, at a 2 – 5 star levels

25 – 100 % (depending on star level) of classrooms must meet nationally recommended group sizes and teacher to child ratios.

In addition, at a 3 – 5 star levels

Programs must score satisfactorily (depending on star level) on the Environment Rating Scales, which is the formal assessment used for Nevada’s Silver State Stars.

Directors must meet educational requirements (amount of college education that must be met depends on star level)

In addition, at a 5 star level

Program must be nationally accredited by an approved accrediting body or meet national Head Start standards.
Silver State Stars – Nevada’s Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System

Quality Indicators

Nevada’s Silver State Stars QRIS Licensed Center Model requires programs to meet additional quality indicators in four categories:

- Policies & Procedures
- Administration & Staff Development
- Health & Safety
- Families & Community

2- star programs must meet 4 additional (16 total) quality indicators in each of the four categories.

3- star programs must meet 8 additional (32 total) quality indicators in each of the four categories.

4-star star programs must meet 12 additional (48 total) quality indicators in each of the four categories.

5- star programs must be nationally accredited thus they have met the majority of additional quality indicators.
Statewide Early Childhood Data System

A Needs Assessment was conducted which led to the recommendation for a statewide early childhood data system.

Nevada Department of Health & Human Services commissioned a feasibility study for the integration of early childhood data into the state’s longitudinal data system. In August 2014, the Nevada Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) Feasibility Study was prepared by Michael J. Simmons.

The report included findings and recommendations from four previous reports and summarized both a short term and long term strategy for moving forward.

The first step calls for a committed sponsor for the ECIDS data system to be identified to ensure the project is initiated and managed to a successful conclusion. The report recommends the sponsor be the Nevada Department of Education.
Kindergarten School Readiness

School readiness position paper inclusive of school readiness indicators.


Vision

The vision adopted by the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) for the KEDS project is:

Nevada’s statewide data system leads to a shared understanding of school readiness. Everyone who touches children’s lives will have a broad awareness of the strengths, needs and status of Nevada’s children; and information that improves children’s development and learning.

- Children’s readiness for school.
- School’s readiness for children.
- The capacity of families and communities to provide developmental opportunities for young children.
Kindergarten Entry Assessment

The Council initiated a two year pilot using Teaching Strategies GOLD® as a universal Kindergarten Entry Assessment, with final evaluation anticipated by July 2015.

2nd Year of Pilot: 4 year Olds, 11 Programs (5 Clark), Fall 2014, Winter 2015, Spring 2015

Social-Emotional: 29, 75, 93 Percentile
Physical: 30, 74, 93 Percentile
Language: 23, 64, 85 Percentile
Cognitive: 21, 71, 92 Percentile
Literacy 31, 81, 94 Percentile
Math: 4, 36, 67 Percentile

Decisions are being made.
Silver State Skills

Silver State SKILLS (Standards, Knowledge and Innovation for Life-Long Success) –
Nevada’s system of professional development for early childhood educators.

Nevada Registry

Teacher Education Assistance for College and

Higher Education (TEACH)

Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention (TACSEI)
Silver State Supports

Silver State Supports – Nevada’s cross-system approach to provide culturally competent, community-based supports to families of children with high needs.

Home Visiting

Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention for Young Children (TACSEI)
These four major projects will be carefully integrated to achieve three overarching, interrelated goals:

A. Improve program quality and outcomes for young children;
B. Increase the number of children with high needs attending high-quality early learning and development programs; and
C. Reduce the achievement gap between children with high needs and their peers.
THANK YOU!

The efforts and contributions of the Nevada ECAC are on behalf of Nevada’s children and families.

http://nvecac.com/

October 6, 2015– Videoconference – NDE LV & CC Board Rooms
December 8, 2015– Videoconference – NDE LV & CC Board Rooms

QUESTIONS???